

Key Messages and Outcomes of the 2025 Regional Consultative Meeting, Africa, of the UNEP Major Groups and Stakeholders, Africa and other African Civil Society Organizations

Thank you chair.

Excellencies, distinguished delegates,

After four intense days of work comprising about 270 delegates representing over 105 Civil Society Organisations from Africa to the 2025 RCM Africa – the first RCM Africa with a youth day, I am pleased to deliver the key outcomes:

On AMCEN at 40 and Beyond

Africa is acting boldly to advance integrated, resilient solutions from climate justice, biodiversity conservation to addressing pollution, land degradation, food systems, and early warning systems.

AMCEN must be a results-oriented platform connecting inclusive coordination with effective implementation, through stronger partnerships, meaningful stakeholder engagement (including MGS), and a clear accountability framework.

We envision AMCEN continuing to forge and elevate common African priorities and positions in global environmental governance

On Biodiversity AMCEN must

1. Ensure secure, predictable, accessible and inclusive biodiversity finance across MEAs and expedite NBSAPs revisions along with comprehensive Biodiversity Finance Plans.
2. Support the integration of biodiversity across all levels of government and sectors of economy
3. Integrate social and economic considerations in decision making on listing of species in the CITES Appendices
4. Finalize the Ramsar Strategic Plan 2025-2034 and integrate urban and peri-urban wetlands into physical and land-use planning and enforce environmental safeguards
5. Ensure energy infrastructure expansion is planned and developed to avoid harm to migratory species, following guidance developed by the CMS Energy Task Force

6. Promote the diversification of livelihood options, including the sustainable use of wildlife products, reducing incentives for illegal wildlife trade
7. Ensure meaningful engagement of IPLCs, women, youth, and persons with disabilities in biodiversity governance, planning, implementation and benefit-sharing

On INC5.2 to end Plastic Pollution,

1. Africa must deliver a legally binding instrument that centers human rights and covers the full life cycle of plastics with a mandatory global target for production reduction
2. A phase-out of plastic products containing hazardous chemicals is necessary to safeguard human health and the environment.
3. A just transition for waste workers and vulnerable communities must prioritize reuse and refill systems as well as safe recycling.
4. A dedicated fund must provide sustainable, adequate, accessible, and predictable money to support treaty implementation, compliance, and enable means of implementation.
5. Hazardous technologies such as chemical recycling and waste-to-energy/incineration must be excluded from the agreement, as well as plastic credits.
6. To ensure progress over time, a provision for voting when consensus cannot be reached must be a priority.

On Mercury Pollution and Minamata Convention

8. Africa must strengthen efforts to eliminate mercury pollution by ratifying and implementing the Convention and relevant instruments
9. Africa must integrate cross-ministerial approaches and multi-stakeholder collaboration in national strategies to protect exposed communities.
10. We urgently request to close the data gaps on mercury pollution in Africa for decision-making
11. We urge countries to advocate for sustainable and accessible financing for mercury pollution projects

On Climate change

1. AMCEN should unify Africa's efforts and position for COP30 to amplify Africa's needs and priorities for climate justice.
2. Africa must defend the principle of CBDR&RC and equity in the UNFCCC processes and call upon developed countries to deliver their fair share of climate ambition and finance.

3. AMCEN must pursue a robust Global Goal on Adaptation indicators framework with requisite means of implementation.
4. AMCEN needs to catalyze Africa's responsive transformations in the global climate financing landscape and in the overall international finance architecture reform.
5. Communities at the frontline of the climate crisis must have distinct, direct and accessible financing mechanisms.

On UNEA-7

1. African Member States to submit a resolution on a soil degradation framework raising awareness on the negative effects of nutrient pollutants, recognizing its cross-cutting impacts on water, biodiversity, and food systems
2. *To* adopt a resolution on strengthening traceability and environmental standards in the mineral value chain.
3. Urge Member states to develop a framework to guide the proliferation of AI and its integration of AI models into school curricula.
4. Urge member states to table a resolution to strengthen hydrological cycles and shared water systems through integrated, climate-resilient management.

Finally, we urge AMCEN to elevate the role of MGS Africa, civil society and academia in a youth and gender-inclusive manner and to ensure inclusive participation in MEAs.